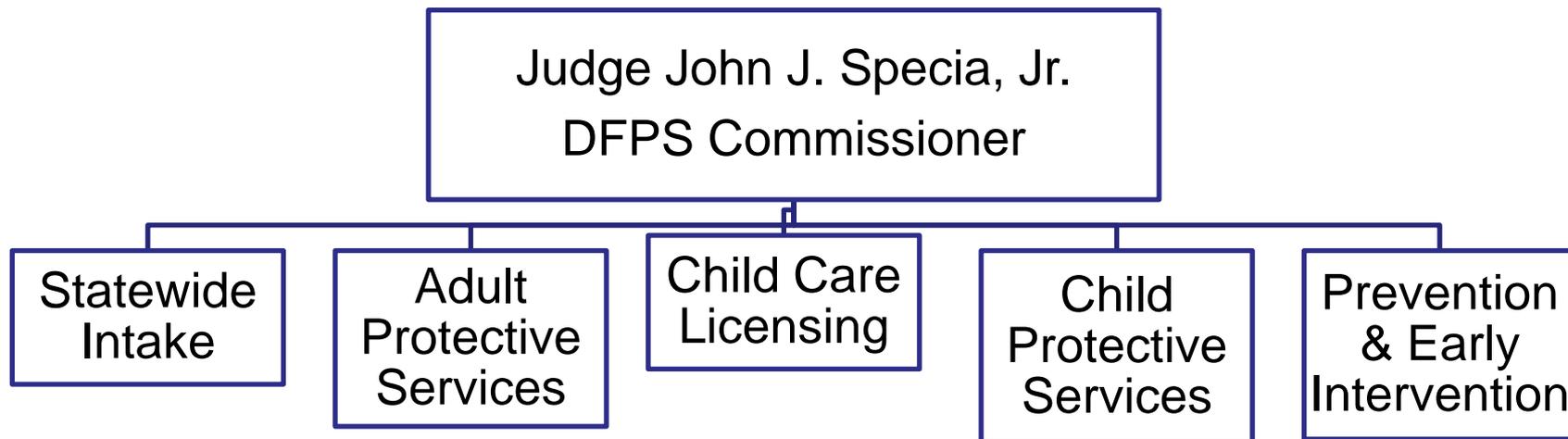




Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Judge John Specia, DFPS Commissioner
February 4, 2015

The mission of the Department of Family and Protective Services is to protect children, the elderly, and people with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation by involving clients, families, and communities.



2004

2014

Child Population (17.4% increase)

6,189,777  7,266,760

Children in Regulated Child Care (21.3% increase)

903,094  1,095,721

Adults over 65 (39.2% increase)

2,217,067  3,086,103

Adults 18-64 with a Disability (16.4% increase)*

1,482,000  1,724,408

Statewide Intake (SWI) receives reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

- SWI assessed a total of 769,905 reports in FY 2014
 - 608,991 (79.1%) were received by phone.
 - 130,568 (16.9%) were received by the internet
 - 7,295 calls were made to the Youth and Runaway Hotline, in addition to 800 texts and chats.

Texas Abuse Hotline

1-800-252-5400 or www.txabusehotline.org

Adult Protective Services (APS) investigates allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults who are age 65 and older or those who have a disability through two programs:

- **In-Home Investigations and Services** – serves individuals who reside in their own homes or in unlicensed room and board homes. If appropriate, APS provides or arranges for services, including short-term shelter, food, medication, health services, financial assistance for rent and utilities, transportation, and minor home repair.
 - *FY 2014, 81,681 investigations were conducted and 41,496 services were arranged.*
- **Facility Investigations** – investigates allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation in state-operated and/or contracted programs that serve adults and children with mental illness and intellectual disabilities.
 - *FY 2014, 11,387 investigations were conducted.*

To protect the health, safety, and well-being of children who are cared for outside of their homes, Child Care Licensing (CCL) regulates all child day-care and residential care operations, including, child-placing agencies. This includes:

- Licensing and monitoring operations for compliance with licensing standards, rules, and law;
- Investigating complaints alleging abuse or neglect or violations of minimum standards;
- Informing parents and the public about child care operations, including all types of day care homes and facilities; and
- Providing technical assistance to providers about meeting licensing standards, rules and law.

**In FY 2014:*

- *CCL regulated 21,612 day care facilities;*
- *conducted 26,394 investigations at licensed facilities: and*
- *Investigated 3,252 illegal operations.*

Child Protective Services

- Child Protective Services (CPS) investigates reports of abuse and neglect of a child, while also assessing risk and ensuring child safety.
- CPS provides services to preserve families while keeping a child safe in his or her own home and when a child is reunified after a removal.
- If a child cannot safely remain in their own home, CPS may remove a child and ask the court for temporary custody. If granted, CPS places children in kinship or foster care.
- When a child cannot safely be reunited with a parent, CPS works to find a safe, loving, and permanent home.
- CPS provides services to foster youth transitioning into adulthood.

**In FY 2014:*

- *CPS conducted 168,164 investigations, 66,572 were confirmed cases of A/N.*
- *30,634 families and 85,694 children received Family Based Safety Services.*

Helps communities build strong families by:

- Designing programming and targeting high-risk communities based on an understanding of both risk factors and protective factors for child abuse, neglect, and juvenile delinquent behavior;
- Contracting with community organizations to provide a variety of evidence-based child and family support services; and
- Funding public awareness campaigns to promote community wide protective efforts.

In FY 15 there are 77 PEI programs operating in Texas, including:

- Home visiting programs to educate at-risk parents of newborns and preschoolers;
 - Parenting classes and support groups; and
 - Crisis Intervention Counseling for families and teens.
-



Office of Child Safety



Foster Care Redesign

The goal of CPS Transformation is to make CPS the highest quality child protective services system in the nation. Utilizing input from the Legislature, the Sunset Advisory Commission, the Stephen Group operational review, stakeholders, and our own workers, Transformation focuses on the following priorities:

- A. Develop a professional and stable workforce.
 - Strategic recruiting and hiring practices.
 - Mentoring program.
 - Shift training from a classroom-based model to a field-based model.
- B. Guarantee greater child safety, permanency, and well-being.
 - Structured Decision Making.
 - Elevated Prevention and Early Intervention.
 - Created the Office of Child Safety.
- C. Establish a more effective organization and operation.
 - Streamlined policy.
 - Improving tools that utilize data to drive management decisions.

Established on September 1, 2014, the new Office of Child Safety will:

- Produce consistent, transparent, and timely review of child fatalities and serious injuries by independent experts outside of any specific program;
- Find root causes of child fatalities to provide guidance on the most effective prevention methods as well as improvements in child welfare practices;
- Work closely with the Department of State Health Services and others to share data and information; and
- Develop strategic recommendations to bring together local agencies, private sector, non-profits, and government programs to reduce child abuse and fatalities.

- Foster Care Redesign was created to achieve these goals:
 - Keep children and youth closer to home and connected to their communities and siblings.
 - Improve the quality of care and outcomes.
 - Reduce the number of times children move in foster care.
- Foster Care Redesign relies on a single contractor. This contracting agency is responsible for finding foster homes or other living arrangements for children in state care and providing them a full continuum of services.
- Foster Care Redesign changes the state's approach from delivering foster care based on a single statewide model to one that allows the community the flexibility to be innovative and design a foster care model.